UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/589
17 October 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 73

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	2
II.	WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE TO EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE	4 - 5	2
III.	INTER-AGENCY CO-OPERATION	6 - 8	2
IV.	STUDIES	9	3
V.	UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON SPACE APPLICATIONS	10 - 13	3
VI.	TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES	14	5
VII.	INTERNATIONAL SPACE INFORMATION SERVICE	15	5
VIII.	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS	16	6
IX.	REGIONAL MECHANISMS OF CO-OPERATION	17	6

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 44/46 of 8 December 1989, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. 1/

2. In response to that request, the present report provides information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference.

3. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space considered the question of the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference during their 1990 sessions. Accordingly, the information contained in the present report reflects primarily the result of the work of the Committee, whose report is also before the General Assembly. 2/

II. WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE TO EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

4. The Working Group of the Whole was reconvened by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its 1990 session in accordance with resolution 44/46, with a view to improving the execution of activities relating to international co-operation, particularly those included in the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, and to proposing concrete steps to increase such co-operation and make it more efficient.

5. At its 1990 session, the Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole as contained in its report (A/AC.105/456, annex II). The Committee recommended that the Working Group of the Whole should be reconvened the following year to continue its work.

III. INTER-AGENCY CO-OPERATION

6. In paragraph 18 of its resolution 44/46, the General Assembly requested all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations working in the field of outer space or on space-related matters to co-operate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference. In that connection, the Committee noted with appreciation the participation in all stages of its work and that of its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee by representatives of United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international organizations.

7. United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, particularly the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), have extensive space-related programmes that are contributing to the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Details of these programmes can be found in the yearly reports of the Secretary-General on co-ordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system. The latest report (A/AC.105/444) contains an overview of the agencies' work programmes for 1990 and 1991.

8. The twelfth session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities is scheduled to be held in September 1990 at FAO headquarters at Rome.

IV. STUDIES

9. At its 1990 session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole made at its fourth session, held in 1990, and noted that they included certain studies and reports of relevance to the recommendations of the Conference. In particular, the Working Group noted that some of the space applications studies recommended by the Second United Nations Conference were incomplete and some of them were limited in scope, and proposed that a few specific studies should be carried out to demonstrate the potentials of space technology, as part of the United Nations efforts in conjunction with International Space Year.

V. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON SPACE APPLICATIONS

10. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 37/90 of 10 December 1982, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Conference that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should be directed towards seven specific objectives. The activities conducted in 1989 by the Programme and the plans for the period 1990/91 to meet those objectives are contained in the report of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/446).

11. Activities carried out or planned under the Programme in 1990, in co-operation with other United Nations bodies, include four short-term training courses on remote-sensing applications. The first, which focused on remote sensing education for educators, was organized by the United Nations in co-operation with the Government of Sweden and hosted by BITS, the Swedish Agency for International, Technical and Economic Co-operation, through Stockholm University at Stockholm and the Swedish Space Corporation at Kiruna; the second, which will focus on microwave remote sensing technology, is being organized by the United Nations and the European Space Agency (ESA) in co-operation with the Government of Brazil; the third, which focused on agricultural applications of remote sensing, was organized by the United Nations and FAO, hosted by the Agricultural University of

READEX FICHE

Prague and co-sponsored by the Institute for Agricultural Crop Production, Prague; the fourth, which will focus on remote sensing and geo-information technology for decision-makers, will be organized by the United Nations, FAO and ESA in co-operation with the Government of France. In addition, a workshop, which focused on space communications for development, with emphasis on current and future developments, rural communications, search and rescue missions and disaster relief, was organized by the United Nations in co-operation with the Government of Cuba and hosted by the Academy of Sciences of Cuba. Finally, a scientific panel on the equatorial electrojet and related phenomena was co-sponsored by the United Nations at the twenty-eighth plenary meeting of the Committee on Space Research; and a special session on forestry, with particular reference to tropical forests, will be co-sponsored by the United Nations at the forty-first International Astronautical Congress.

12. In promoting the development of indigenous capability, the Programme will award 40 long-term fellowships (2 by Austria, 10 by Brazil, 3 by the German Democratic Republic, 3/ 21 by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and 4 by ESA) in 1990 for in-depth training of participants from developing countries in the areas of microwave technology, satellite communications engineering, satellite meteorology, basic space sciences, satellite geodesy, cartography, aerial photography and remote sensing. In addition, beginning in 1990/91, the Government of China has established two fellowships in geodesy, photogrammetry and remote sensing.

13. In 1991, three short-term training courses and two workshops are planned:

(a) A United Nations workshop to be held at Beijing in September 1991, in co-operation with the Regional Remote Sensing Programme (RRSP) of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Government of China; the workshop will be organized for the benefit of ESCAP member States and will focus on space technology applications to minimize and alleviate the impact of natural disasters, such as forest fires, floods, storms, high winds and earthquakes;

(b) The sixteenth United Nations/FAO International Training Course: Remote Sensing Technology Applications, organized in co-operation with the Government of Italy;

(c) The sixth United Nations/FAO/World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/ESA Training Course on Remote Sensing Technology for Development for the benefit of member States in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) region;

(d) The third United Nations training course on communications technology for development, organized in 1991 in co-operation with the Government of the USSR;

(e) The third United Nations/ESA workshop on microwave remote sensing technology for the benefit of member States in the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) region.

VI. TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES

14. In paragraph 7 (g) of its resolution 37/90 of 10 December 1982, the General Assembly decided that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should, upon request by Member States or any of the specialized agencies, be directed towards the provision or arrangements for provision of technical advisory services on space applications projects. With regard to this mandate, the Programme has provided or is providing assistance in the following regions:

(a) To the Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Co-operation (IOMAC) Programme, by assisting in the planning of remote sensing pilot projects to be carried out with financial support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and technical support from the Government of France;

(b) To Member States of the Atlantic Coast of Africa, by assisting in planning remote sensing applications to marine resources and coastal management;

(c) To ECA, by assisting in evaluating the remote sensing programme of the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing at Nairobi;

(d) To the Government of Costa Rica, by assisting in preparing the Space Conference of the Americas: Prospects in Co-operation for Development, and in follow-up activities to the Conference.

The Committee also noted that, in co-operation with the United Nations, ESA would be providing remote sensing satellite data sets for selected countries in North Africa and West Africa. Details of those activities are contained in document A/AC.105/446, paragraphs 10 (a) to (b) and 11.

VII. INTERNATIONAL SPACE INFORMATION SERVICE

15. In paragraph 8 of its resolution 37/90, the General Assembly decided to establish an International Space Information Service, consisting initially of a directory of sources of information and data services to provide direction upon request to accessible data banks and information sources. With regard to this mandate, the International Space Information Service published: Seminars of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/443), containing selected papers from the seminars, workshops and training courses of the Programme; a bibliography on space technology applications to marine resources, as part of the assistance provided to IOMAC; an addendum to Education, Training, Research and Fellowship Opportunities in Space Science and Technology and its Applications: A Directory (A/AC.105/432/Add.1); a summary of the scientific and technical presentations made during the twenty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/459); and a list of experts in space technology and applications (A/AC.105/460). The Committee noted that those publications would be updated as necessary.

VIII. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

16. In paragraph 10 of its resolution 37/90, the General Assembly appealed to all Governments to make voluntary contributions, either in money or in kind, towards carrying out the recommendations of the Conference. In his note verbale dated 11 March 1983, the Secretary-General brought that paragraph to the attention of Member States, particularly with respect to the newly mandated and expanded activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. Member States and intergovernmental organizations that responded to the appeal since the forty-fourth session of the Assembly have been mentioned under appropriate headings in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. 2/ The Committee took note of the disappointment expressed by the developing countries at the lack of financial resources to implement the recommendations of the Conference.

IX. REGIONAL MECHANISMS OF CO-OPERATION

17. In pursuance of resolution 44/46, the Secretariat continued its efforts to strengthen the regional mechanisms of co-operation in carrying out various activities in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference, in particular those relating to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (see para. 14 (a) to (d) above).

Notes

1/ See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9-21 August 1982 (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2).

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/45/20).

3/ With effect from 3 October 1990, the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic united to form one sovereign State under the designation "Germany".